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News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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News from the Midwest—Audrey McKanna Coleman, University of Kansas, and Troy Eller, Wayne State University, Assistant Editors

Please submit “News from the Midwest” items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy Eller at troy.eller@wayne.edu, and items for Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Audrey McKanna Coleman at amcoleman@ku.edu.

ILLINOIS

Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC)

The Council on Library and Information Resources has awarded a two-year Hidden Collections grant in the amount of \$499,500 to the BMRC for the *Color Curtain Processing Project: Unveiling the Archives of Chicago's Black Metropolis*. The grant will enable the BMRC to process more than 10,000 linear feet of its members' primary resource collections related to African-American history and create EAD finding aids. Additionally, the grant allows the BMRC to offer archival work experience to undergraduate students seeking careers in history and archival science. The BMRC is an unincorporated Chicago-based association of libraries, universities, and other archival institutions with major holdings of materials that document African-American and African diasporic culture, history, and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicago. The University of Chicago serves as host institution of the BMRC. <http://www.blackmetropolisresearch.org>

Society of the Divine Word Chicago Province

In January, the Society of the Divine Word Chicago Province launched its completely redesigned Web site that devotes a special section to the Robert M. Myers Archives. The Archives site now includes research guidelines, information for visitors, holdings lists, and every issue of *On the Shelf*, the Archives' newsletter. In the future, the holdings page will include finding aids and copies of archival

materials. http://www.divineword.org/robert_m_myers_archives/robert_m_myers_archives.aspx

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC)

The Special Collections Research Center in the Morris Library at SIUC has received the papers of former United States Senator Roland Burris. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, bill and issue files, speeches, and schedules related to his work in the U.S. Senate and state government. In 1978, Burris was the first African-American elected to statewide office in Illinois when he was elected Illinois Comptroller. He served in that office until his election as Illinois Attorney General in 1990. In 2008, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich appointed Burris to replace President-Elect Barack Obama as the nation's junior senator from Illinois. <http://archives.lib.siu.edu>

INDIANA

Indiana Historical Society (IHS)

In March 2010, the IHS opened the *Indiana Experience* featuring, as part of a suite of immersive visitor experiences, the “time travel” program *Destination Indiana*. Using large touch-screen technology to produce more than 2,200 collections images, which are arranged in 203 geographic and topical “journeys,” visitors explore their own selections of Indiana history at their own pace. A dozen new “journeys” are added every six months. <http://www.indianahistory.org>

Mennoite ChurchUSA

The Mennonite ChurchUSA Archives—Goshen recently acquired two

manuscript collections pertaining to race and gender issues in the mid- to late-twentieth-century Mennonite Church. The Emma Richards Papers document the calling and career of the first ordained female Mennonite pastor. Consisting of sermons and correspondence and subject files, these papers provide insight into both the administrative and spiritual aspects of her life-long service to the Mennonite Church. The Le Roy Bechler Papers elucidate the history of African-American Mennonite congregations in mid-century America. Bechler, a white Mennonite missionary and pastor, devoted his career to urban church planting and serving the African-American Mennonite community. His correspondence files, which comprise the bulk of the collection, contain over 40 years of dialogue among white Mennonite mission workers and African-American Mennonite leaders. <http://mla.bethelks.edu/archon>

Society of Indiana Archivists (SIA)

The theme for the 2011 SIA meeting, held April 1–2 at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, was *Back to the Basics II: A Return to the Basics*. Presenters of the pre-conference workshop covered needs assessments for archives and historical collections, from doing assessments yourself to successfully having them funded. The all-day meeting on Saturday offered a choice of six sessions, covering such topics as care and handling of photographs and film, digitizing newspaper collections, introduction to recorded sound collections, navigating permission-to-publish requests, transferring

legacy data to current systems, and lone arranger/small institution strategies. The plenary speaker was Chris Prom, Assistant University Archivist and Associate Professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who presented “Building Digital Archives Capacity: Step by Step.” <http://www.inarchivists.org/meetings/index.html>

IOWA

Iowa State University

The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust is providing \$120,000 to support the design and construction of a Special Collections and Preservation classroom at the Iowa State University Library. The trust is a philanthropic foundation in Iowa with assets of more than \$250 million and annual grant distributions of over \$11 million. The Special Collections and Preservation Departments are looking forward to utilizing the classroom for the numerous tours and presentations given each semester for university classes and other groups. <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/index.html>

University of Iowa (UI)

A 30-minute documentary, *On a Confrontation in Iowa City*, recounts the December 5, 1967, protest of the presence of a Dow Chemical employment recruiter on the UI campus. Dow manufactured Napalm, a thickening agent used with gasoline to produce firebombs during the war in Vietnam. The film was produced in 1969 by noted author Robert Coover, then a member of the UI English faculty. It was recently digitized with the producer's permission and added to the Iowa Digital Library. It may be accessed at <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/u2/ictcs,13402>.

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University (NKU)

The Special Collections and Archives Department of the W. Frank Steely Library at NKU announces the availability of its newest digital collection: the Gilliam Postcards. Since this project was partially funded by a grant from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, only postcards that depict scenes within the state were selected for inclusion. Approximately 250 images, dating from 1900 to 1970, depict a wide variety of scenes from 36 Kentucky towns and cities. The backs of some postcards have correspondence from family and friends to Mrs. Berte Gilliam. The University Archives collaborated with a graduate public history class to teach them about copyright for unpublished archival records. The class conducted a risk analysis to evaluate the potential risk from digitizing the correspondence and making it available on the Internet. Plans are underway to further develop this collection through collaboration with faculty in the College of Education in order to create lesson plans for the use of the postcards to teach local history to public school children. http://archives.nku.edu/digital_collections

University of Louisville (UL)

The UL Libraries has completed digitizing its entire run of yearbooks (1909–1982). The yearbook collection, one of 25 digital collections from UL, is full-text searchable. <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/yearbooks>

MICHIGAN

Archives of Michigan

Seeking Michigan, a Web site devoted to sharing the state's history, has cre-

ated an official Web page for the Michigan Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission, <http://www.micivilwar.org>. Visitors can check the calendar of Michigan Civil War events, peruse Civil War-themed blog articles, and find links to invaluable Civil War resources such as genealogical name indexes, digital scans of the *War of the Rebellion* records, Civil War photos, and videos of Civil War reenactments. *Seeking Michigan* has added an on-line store. Visitors can purchase prints of historic photographs, maps, and architectural drawings, and prints or T-shirts displaying labels of now-defunct Michigan breweries. Researchers also can make formal off-site reference requests through the store. <http://store.seekingmichigan.org>

Cranbrook Educational Community

In 2010, the Cranbrook Archives received The Edward and Ruth Adler Schnee Papers, which document the life and work of Cranbrook Academy of Art alumna and renowned textile artist Ruth Adler Schnee and her partnership with her husband, Edward. This collection provides the archival documentation for Adler Schnee's thought processes as a designer, as well as documenting the business operations of one of Detroit's earliest mid-century modernist interior designers. In conjunction with the collection, a donation was received to hire a project archivist, Cheri Gay, to process the collection, which will be open for research this summer.

Archives staff assisted The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum with their exhibition, *Art in Architecture: The Collaborative Spirit of the Interwar Period in Detroit*. Archival photographs, architectural drawings, and cultural properties objects highlighting Cranbrook's art and architecture are

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featured in a dedicated gallery. <http://www.svsu.edu/mfsm/home.html>

Archives Interim Director, Leslie S. Edwards, presented “Cross-Pollination: Bringing Arts and Crafts to Detroit” as part of Cranbrook’s *Behind the Scenes* lecture series. The presentation focused on the influence of William Morris on Detroit’s art world, including Cranbrook founder George Booth, and the formation and operation of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. <http://www.cranbrook.edu/archives>

Michigan Technological University

The Keweenaw Digital Archives, a Web-based collection of historical photographic images of Michigan’s Copper Country, recently added its 10,000th image. The collection is drawn primarily from the photographic holdings of the Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, and documents the social, cultural, and industrial life of Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula, the site of the United States’ first hard metal mining boom. Some of the earliest images include the work of local photographers J. W. Nara, J. T. Reeder, and Adolph Isler from the late

nineteenth century. More recent images include photos from Michigan Tech campus photographers and alumni, as well as a large number from Houghton’s local newspaper, *The Daily Mining Gazette*. Topics include almost every aspect of life in Michigan’s Copper Country, including copper mining, local cities and towns, social life, maritime locations and lighthouses, and Michigan Tech campus life and athletic teams. Since the Keweenaw Digital Archives went live, low-resolution images have been used in many unanticipated ways, including promotional and artistic Web pages offered by tourist organizations and independent bloggers. Users are also able to order high-resolution images and prints for a fee. <http://digarch.lib.mtu.edu>

Wayne State University (WSU)

The Walter P. Reuther Library has received \$142,000 to establish an endowed fund for the Sam Fishman Travel Grant program, which will support travel to the Reuther for researchers who wish to use our collections. The program will be launched in fall 2011. The Reuther recently has opened the collections of six presidents and directors of the Merrill-Palmer Institute. Founded in 1918, the Detroit-based institute has provided formal training and research in child development and has helped develop the standards for the national Head Start Program. These newly opened collections supplement earlier collections from the institute and include records from research projects and programs related to child development, early childhood education, and parent education. Other recently opened collections include the Minoru Yamasaki Papers,

architect of the World Trade Center and several WSU campus buildings, and the Preservation Wayne Records, which document the organization’s efforts to prevent the destruction of historic buildings on the WSU campus and surrounding areas.

MISSOURI

National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)

NARA’s NPRC will relocate more than one hundred million records to a new \$112 million modernized facility. Located in North St. Louis County, the facility will open its doors in May, which is also when the workforce of 800 will start moving in. The entire move of personnel and records will take about 17 months. The new location will store approximately 2.3 million cubic feet of records currently housed at three different St. Louis area facilities. The building will be certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) program and also will be compliant with the stringent Federal standards for archival and nonarchival records. Records will be housed in climate-controlled stack areas designed for long-term preservation. Archival storage bays will have particulate and ultra-violet filtration. Paint, sealants, caulking, and the powder-coated finishes for the shelving will be certified for minimal off-gassing of volatile organic compounds. The facility also will offer new research rooms, meeting rooms equipped with the latest video-conferencing technology and tenant office space for other area federal agencies.

NEBRASKA

Danish American Archive and Library

After losing its space with little warning in the recently closed Dana College, the



This photograph, showing a group of copper miners at an unknown location, was the 10,000th image added to the Keweenaw Digital Archives. Image #ACC03-153D-01-02 from the Van Den Belt Photograph Collection, Michigan Tech Archives.

Danish American Archive and Library has relocated to a renovated building in downtown Blair. The move gives the archive more space and public visibility. The archive contains the largest collection of historical materials pertaining to Danish immigrants and their descendants in North America. The collections come from not only institutions and widely recognized individuals, but also from members of the Danish-American population who are the real determiners of belief, culture, and history: housewives, laborers, farmers, business people, pastors, professors, engineers, and artists. <http://www.danishamericanarchive.com>

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota State University (NDSU)

Last July, the NDSU University Archives, working with NDSU Library's

Digital Initiatives Librarian, created and began mounting exhibits on the University Archives' Flickr site. Since initially uploading 16 images of North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC)/NDSU buildings, the site has grown to include six image collections: buildings and monuments, NDAC/SU presidents, women's athletics, dances, plays, and theatre passion. Through January, there have been more than 32,000 hits on the Flickr site. It is a work in progress and will continue to grow as more image sets and collections are added. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nds-u-university-archives/collections>

OHIO

Ohio University

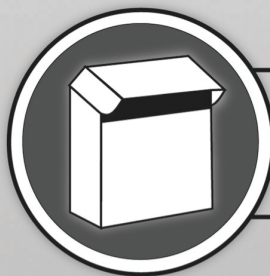
Ohio University Libraries has been participating in the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative since spring 2010. Yearbooks, alumni

journals, and course catalogs from University Archives now are available through the libraries Digital Initiatives site. <http://media.library.ohiou.edu>

University of Toledo (UT)

The UT Press recently published *From Institutions to Independence: A History of People with Disabilities in Northwest Ohio*, a monograph based on an exhibit of the same name produced in 2008 by UT's Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections. The volume was edited by Barbara Floyd, director of the Canaday Center, and includes chapters by Kimberly Brownlee, manuscripts librarian; Tamara Jones, administrative assistant; and staff members Jennifer Free and David Chelminski. Additional information is available at <http://www.utoledopress.com>.

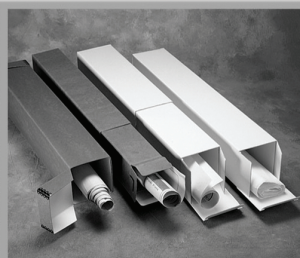
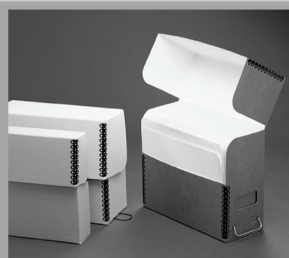
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The Canaday Center's current exhibit, *Wholly Toledo: The Business and Industry that Shaped the City*, examines the economic development of the city. On display through August 12, it includes extensive materials from the center's business-related collections. Copies of the accompanying catalog are available free of charge by contacting Floyd at barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.

WISCONSIN

Marquette University (MU)

With funding by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has awarded MU, Catholic University of America, St. Catherine University, and the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant in the amount of \$149,964. The grant will support

the Catholic Social Action Access Project, and project activities will be completed by December 31. Archivists, catalogers, and interns are creating EAD and/or MARC records to expose three previously "hidden" collections. MU Libraries serves as the lead institution for the project. Jean Zaroni, associate dean of libraries, and Matt Blessing, head of Special Collections and Archives, are coprincipal investigators. Project collaborators are institutional members of the CRRA and descriptions of project materials will be collocated within the CRRA's "Catholic Portal." The Catholic Portal provides access to rare, unique, and uncommon materials in libraries, seminaries, special collections, and archives. By electronically bringing together resources in many formats from many collections, the Portal enables easy, effective, and global discovery of Catholic research resources.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM)

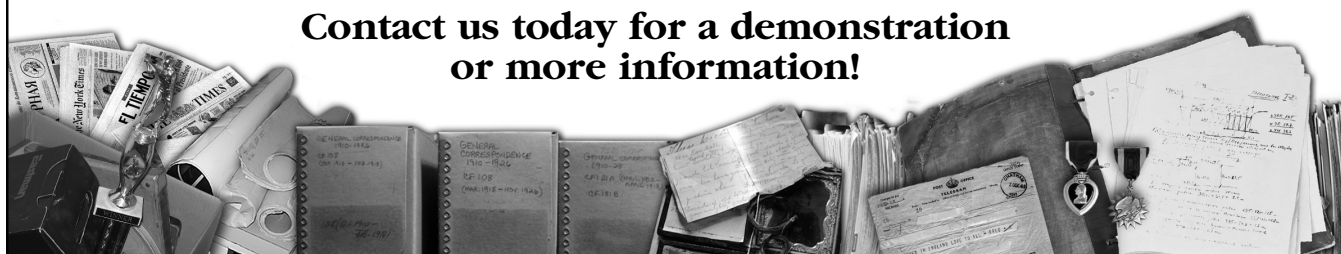
WVM commemorated the twentieth anniversary of Operation Desert Storm with a manuscript exhibit highlighting a unique product of the conflict—military-themed trading cards. "Trading Desert Storm" explores the phenomenon of Topps, Pro Set, and other sports card companies, producing sets of collectible cards featuring people like Norman Schwarzkopf and Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, places like Kuwait and Khafji, and military equipment like Scud and Patriot missiles. Marketed both as an educational tool and as a keepsake of a significant event, Desert Storm trading cards were incredibly popular, but that popularity was as short-lived as the conflict itself. The exhibit features examples of cards from the five major series and explores the differences and similarities among them.



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